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## International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

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The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has observed International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

The Ministry highlighted the importance of the following approach in **dealing with the menace of drug abuse:-**

- Universal Accessibility of Treatment.
- Focus on Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation under **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction.**
- Targeted Intervention for High-Risk District & for Vulnerable Population in Closed Settings

### **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction**

- This Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has begun implementation of a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025.
- The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy involving education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families.
- It focuses on preventive education, awareness generation, identification, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons and training and capacity building of the service providers through collaborative efforts of the Central and State Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations.

### **Government Intervention**

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- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, addresses the prevention and rehabilitation aspect of substance use through the establishment of “rehabilitation centres” run by nongovernmental organizations.
- The Drug De-addiction Programme (DDAP) was initiated in 1988 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and was mandated with provision of treatment for substance use disorder (SUDs.)

- **Globally, three broad approaches are followed to address the issue of drug use – “supply reduction”, “demand reduction” and “harm reduction.”**
  - The **“supply reduction”** sector of the government works toward reducing the availability of illicit drugs through implementing the relevant drug laws and policies and is managed largely by the **Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs**, Government of India and a variety of other agencies in the central or state governments.
  - The **“demand reduction”** sector, on the other hand, deals with reducing the demand for drugs in the population through prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.
    - **The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)**, Government of India, is the nodal ministry for demand reduction and has a “Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse” in place since 1985–86.
  - **“Harm reduction”** in India is primarily seen as prevention of HIV among people who inject drugs and various strategies for this are implemented by the **National AIDS Control Organization, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.